

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9239

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLIAISON OFFICE PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AORG UN CH

SUBJ: CHINESE AS WORKING LANGUAGE IN UN

REF: USUN 2680

1. PRC MISOFFS HAVE RAISED WITH US, ON TWO RECENT AND SEPARATE OCCASIONS, THE QUESTION OF US REACTION TO PRC EFFORTS MAKE CHINESE A WORKING LANGUAGE AT UN. CHINESE COUNSELLOR CHOU EXPLICITLY ASKED OUR SUPPORT CLAIMING THAT "EVEN THE RUSSIANS" WILL NOT OPPOSE. IN RESPONSE WE HAVE SAID WE HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS. WE ALSO HAVE ASKED ABOUT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. PRC SECOND SECRETARY KUO CHIA-TING TOLD MISOFF AUG 10 THAT PRC MISSION STUDYING FINANCIAL COSTS, WOULD NOT BE "UNREASONABLE" AND WOULD TRY KEEP COSTS DOWN. KUO SAID CHINESE HAVE CONTACTED NUMEROUS MISSIONS ON THIS QUESTION. ALL EXPRESS SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH MANY ALSO ASK ABOUT FINANCIL IMPLICATIONS.

2. MISOFF CONTACTED PETER HAZOU, EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN OFFICE OF CONFERENCE SERVICES, TO OBTAIN ESTIMATE ON COSTS INVOLVED WITH PROPOSED ADDITION OF CHINESE AS UN WORKING LANGUAGE. HAZOU SAID THAT SECT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE FIRM ESTIMATE ON FINANCIAL IMPLICA-
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TIONS UNTIL START OF GA. ITEM ITSELF WOULD NOT COME

UP BEFORE LATE OCTOBER. EARLIER HIS DIVISION HAD MADE ROUGH ESTIMATE OF MAXIMUM ADDED ANNUAL COST OF \$2.1 MILLION. PRC MISSION IS HOLDING DISCUSSIONS IN SECT IN EFFORT TO DELINEATE WHAT SERVICES ARE NEEDED. IN SOME CASES SECT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT WAS INCAPABLE OF FURNISHING ALL WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED. CHINESE HAVE SHOWN UNDERSTANDING AND AS RESULT \$2.1 MILLION ESTIMATE SHOULD BE SCALED DOWN.

3. WE EXPECT PRC-SPONSORED RES THIS SUBJECT WILL CARRY IN UNGA AND THAT PRC PERMREP HUANG WILL RAISE ISSUE WITH AMB SCALI IN DUE COURSE. FURTHERMORE, HSING ON ACABQ WILL MOST LIKELY RAISE ISSUE WITH STOTTLEMYER WHEN COMITE MTG STARTS SEPT 4. WE RECOMMEND THAT AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OCCASION WE BE AUTHORIZED TELL CHINESE WE SUPPORT THEIR RES IN PRINCIPLE AND WILL VOTE FOR IT PROVIDED COSTS REASONABLE.

4. WE DON'T EXPECT CHINESE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO FOLLOWING CONDITION BUT WE WOULD PLAN TO TELL THEM, WHEN WE INDICATE OUR SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE, THAT WE HOPE CHINA WOULD PUBLICLY (AS THEY HAVE ALREADY TOLD US PRIVATELY) INDICATE ITS OPPOSITION TO DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL WORKING LANGUAGES OTHER THAN CHINESE. WE MIGHT POINT OUT THAT UNLESS LINE DRAWN, THERE MAY BE NO END TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL WORKING LANGUAGES WHICH WOULD PRESENT MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO TELL PRC MISSION WE WILL SUPPORT RES TO MAKE CHINESE A WORKING LANGUAGE. SCHAUFLE

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